



# **Town of Seekonk**

## **Massachusetts**

### **Board of Assessors**

**PAUL K. BUCKLEY**, CHAIRMAN  
**JOYCE SOLOMON**, VICE CHAIRMAN  
**EDWARD F. MCGOVERN**, CLERK

**LYDIA A. CORDEIRO**, TOWN ASSESSOR

### **REGULAR MINUTES**

September 23, 2021 @ 5:30 PM

Chairman, Paul Buckley called the Board of Assessors Regular Meeting to order on Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 5:30 PM. In attendance were Paul Buckley, Chairman, Joyce Solomon, Vice Chairman, Edward F. McGovern, Clerk and Lydia A. Cordeiro, Town Assessor.

Edward F. McGovern stated that he will be recording the Regular Session Meeting.

**1. Approval of Regular Session Minutes of May 24, 2021, June 10, 2021 and August 9, 2021:**

The Board of Assessors reviewed the Regular Session Minutes of May 24, 2021, June 10, 2021 and August 9, 2021. Edward F. McGovern made a motion to accept the Regular Session Minutes of May 24, 2021, June 10, 2021 and August 9, 2021; stating that he will abstain from voting to approve the August 9, 2021 meeting because he was not in attendance.

Minutes of May 24, 2021 and June 10, 2021: Accepted by a 3-0 vote.

The vote: Paul K. Buckley – Aye; Joyce Solomon – Aye; Edward F. McGovern – Aye.

Minutes of August 9, 2021; Accepted by a 2-0 vote, 1 abstain.

The vote: Paul K. Buckley – Aye; Joyce Solomon – Aye; Edward F. McGovern – Abstain.

**2. Review/sign Motor Vehicle Excise & FY'21 Boat Excise Abatement Applications and Denials for June, July & August, 2021:**

Following a discussion among the members of the board, a motion was made by Edward F. McGovern, seconded by Paul Buckley to table this item into Executive Session. No vote was taken.

**3. Review/sign monthly Motor Vehicle Excise & Boat Excise Exemption and Abatement reports for June, July & August, 2021:**

In conjunction with Item 2, the Board of Assessors will review/sign the Motor Vehicle Excise and Boat Excise Exemption and Abatement reports for June, July & August, 2021 in Executive Session. No vote was taken.

**4. Review/sign monthly Real Estate Exemption and Abatement Reports for July of 2021:**

The Board of Assessors discussed and approved the Real Estate Exemption and Abatement Reports for July, 2021.

**5. Review/sign 2020 MVE Commitment 9 & 2021 MVE Commitment 4:**

The Board of Assessors reviewed and signed the Warrants and Commitments for 2020 MVE Commitment 9 & 2021 MVE Commitment 4.

**6. Review/sign FY'22 Chapter Land Applications**

The Town Assessor informed the Board of Assessors that there are thirty-seven FY'22 Chapter Land Applications that have been approved, with one that has been denied.

Edward F. McGovern asked if these documents are open to the public, the Town Assessor said no. Mr. McGovern said that these documents need to go under Executive Session. No vote was taken to move these items into executive session.

Edward F. McGovern stated between agenda items that the meetings should be held later in the evening and as a teleconference/remote meeting. This way more individuals can fully participate in the meetings from home, work, etc., he also wants to discuss more about the meetings at a later date.

**7. Discuss Hardship (Clause 18) Exemption Qualifications**

The Board of Assessors discussed the Fiscal Year 2022 Hardship qualifications in conjunction with the following: *FY'20 Hardship Exemption Criteria; Fiscal Year 2022 Statutory Exemptions – Seekonk, MA; FY'22 Hardship Requirements; FY'22 Senior Exemption Requirements.*

The board will re-review/approve these qualifications in conjunction with updated documentation at the next meeting

**8. Community Speaks:**

Edward F. McGovern reiterated that having a remote meeting will allow more people to participate in the meeting, especially for "Community Speaks" portion of the meeting, indicating that it is hard for people to make it here for 5:30 PM. He also stated that he believes the Remote Meeting Law is currently in effect, where it will allow members of the board to attend remotely. Lydia A. Cordeiro stated that the meetings will soon be televised.

**Executive Session:**

A motion was made by the Joyce Solomon, seconded by Paul Buckley to go into Executive Session to:

- a. Approve the Executive Session Minutes of May 24, 2021 & June 10, 2021
- b. Exemptions and Abatements per submitted list pursuant to G.L.c 30A Section 21(a) (7) and G.L.c.59, Section 60; as having this discussion in open session would be detrimental to the Board's litigating position.
- c. Adjourn Executive Session and return to Regular Session
- d. To discuss the items that the Board of Assessors decided to table from Regular Session into Executive Session.

Accepted by a 3-0 vote.

The vote: Paul Buckley – Aye; Joyce Solomon – Aye; Edward F. McGovern – Aye.

The Board of Assessors went into Executive Session at 5:57 PM.

(To return to Regular Session)

A motion was made by Edward F. McGovern, seconded by Joyce Solomon to reopen the Regular Session at 7:13 PM. Accepted by a 3-0 vote,

The vote: Paul Buckley – Aye; Joyce Solomon – Aye; Edward F. McGovern – Aye.

The Board of Assessors returned to Regular Session at 7:13 PM.

**9. Approval/Denial of Abatement & Exemption Applications:**

In Executive Session, the Board of Assessors reviewed and approved Exemption Applications for:

85 Clause 22 Exemption Applications

34 Clause 22E Exemption Applications

(The board voted to revisit the application for Map 20, Lot 643.)

1 Clause 22B Exemption Application

100 Peck Street, Seekonk, MA 02771

- 1 Clause 22F Exemption Application
- 1 Clause 42 Exemption Application
- 2 Clause 37A Exemption Applications
- 3 Clause 17D Exemption Applications
- 1 Clause 17 Exemption Application
- 22 Clause 41C Exemption Applications
- 3 CPA Exemption Applications

In Executive Session, the Board of Assessors reviewed and denied Exemption Applications for:

- 1 Clause 18 Exemption Application
- 1 Clause 22 Exemption Application
- 3 Clause 41C Exemption Applications

In Executive Session, the Board of Assessors reviewed and approved Exemption Applications for:

- 2 Clause 18 Exemption Application for Map/Lots: 11/2 & 5/40

A motion was made by Joyce Solomon, seconded by Edward F. McGovern to approve the Clause 18 Applications, awarding \$750.00 each to Map 11, Lot 2, and Map 5, Lot 40. Accepted by a 3-0 vote. The vote; Edward F. McGovern – Aye; Paul K. Buckley – Aye; Joyce Solomon, Aye.

**10. July 9, 2021 Memo to BOA regarding the release of MVE documents:**

The Board of Assessors discussed the *July 9, 2021 Memorandum regarding Motor Vehicle Excise Abatement Documents Federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act*. The Town Assessor reviewed the information on the Memorandum with the board. Edward F. McGovern stated that he didn't have an issue with not seeing the applications but the summary of what was being abated.

**11. August 5, 2021 Memo to Chairman regarding distribution of executive session minutes:**

The Board of Assessors discussed the *August 5, 2021 Memorandum regarding Executive Session Documents*. The Town Assessor reviewed the memorandum with the board, advising them that the Town Administrators office and other Assessors recommend that Executive Session Minutes are not distributed out of the office for review. Edward F. McGovern requested that we wait to hear back from the Attorney General's Office. Paul Buckley indicated, and Edward F. McGovern agreed that a secure shared drive would work best, securely providing the board members with the items for the agenda in advance of the meeting.

**12. Update on releasing to public executive session minutes:**

Chairman Paul K. Buckley will discuss this item with the board at a later date.

**13. Discuss Monthly Report:**

The Town Assessor, Lydia A. Cordeiro informed the board that her and the Assistant Assessor attended a webinar meeting regarding Classification Hearing. She stated that it has been difficult to keep track of the daily customer service items because the office has been extremely busy, however, daily operations are running very smoothly. The disposal file has been done, a new Senior Clerk will be starting soon and the Assessor informed the board the days she will be on vacation. Also, our iasWorld representative has changed.

Edward F. McGovern asked when the numbers from iasWorld have to be done by. The Town Assessor indicated by November's Classification Hearing. Mr. McGovern also asked if all sales have been reviewed and the Town Assessor informed the board that they are currently being reviewed.

- 14. Reappointment of Lydia Cordeiro Town Assessor to one year. (Ref Chapter 41, Section 25A):**  
Chairman Paul K. Buckley informed the Board of Assessors that it is the board's job to appoint the Town Assessor yearly on his/her anniversary date. If they do not, then it is an automatic reappointment. Joyce Solomon stated that goals and objectives need to be set, however, it is difficult to do so because the Assessor reports to the Town Administrator on a daily basis, whom also reviews the Assessor's performance. After a brief discussion, the board agrees that the goals and objectives from the Board of Assessors and the Town Administrator should coincide.  
A motion was made by Joyce Solomon, seconded by Paul K. Buckley to appoint Lydia A. Cordeiro as the Town Assessor for another year, effective until October 6, 2022,  
Accepted by a 2-0 vote, 1 abstain.  
The vote: Paul K. Buckley – Aye; Joyce Solomon – Aye; Edward F. McGovern – Abstain.
- 15. Discuss other topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chairman 48 hours before the meeting:**  
Town Assessor, Lydia Cordeiro informed the board that the Town Administrator's Office needs an updated Fee Schedule from each department. She recommended not to change it, seeing the only items that could be updated are the Abutters Lists and the Electronic File Reports. The board discussed and agreed to make no changes.
- 16. Schedule Next Meeting:**  
Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 5:30 PM.  
Edward F. McGovern indicated he wants the meetings to be consistent and available to the public via audio. The Board discussed and agreed that the third Thursday of each month at 5:30 PM will work best.
- 17. Adjournment:**  
A motion was made by Joyce Solomon, seconded by Paul K. Buckley to adjourn the meeting at 7:75 PM. Accepted by a 3-0 vote.  
The vote: Paul Buckley – Aye; Joyce Solomon – Aye; Edward F. McGovern – Aye.  
The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alison Halaburda